1	2	3	4
26.	Rajasthan	5	Bhilwara
27.	Rajasthan	2	Jhunjhunu
28.	Rajasthan	1	Chittor
29.	Rajasthan	5	Dhahar ka bas in Sikar Distt.

Destruction of forests by mining in Assam

952. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of destruction of forests and hills on account of open cast mining operations in the Patkai Range **of** Assam by the North East Coal Field Ltd. of CIL;

(b) if so, the details of clause-wise protective measures provided in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulatory) Act, 1957 and those taken;

(c) the extend of damage caused to forests and natural topography, vegetation and wild life vegetation, drinking water and cultivable land; and

(d) the total hectares of land utilised for open cast mining operations since inception and the land subsequently reclaimed and made fit for vegetation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. De-coaled areas are backfilled with overburden, terraced and compacted. Top soil over is spread to make the area fit for vegetation. Retaining walls and toe-walls are constructed for protection against slope failure. Gullies are plugged. Mine water discharge is treated before its final disposal. Mining machinery is properly maintained. Water is sprayed on haul roads to minim ise fugititve dust emissions.

Munchi abandoned mine measuring 35 ha. has been reclaimed and converted into a recreation ground with a lake. Pisiculture has been promoted. Plantation of ornamental plant species has been carried out.

(c) Natural topography and vegetation has been damaged due to

mining activities. 55 hectares of cultivable land was degraded and duly compensated by the project authorities. Compensatory afforestation is being carried out in mine degraded areas and other areas as well. No instances of disturbance to wildlife and contamination of drinking water have been reported. The project authorities have already initiated steps to prevent further degradaton.

(d) Out of 1272.34 hectares of lease hold area, 187 hecatres have been disturbed. 84 hectares have been fully reclaimed. The reclamation process will continue for five years beyond cessation of mining operations. The protective measures adopted by the proponent are being regularly monitored by Pollution Control Board, Assam.

Riverbed Wetland Plan for Yamuna

953. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Enviornment and Forests has drawn up a project called Riverbed Wetland Plan to ensure unhindered water flow in the Yamuna river, which is virtually reduced to a sewer currently;

(b) if so, the details of the Plan, including the time-frame and cost involved in implementation of the project; and

(c) by when the work on this project is likely to be initiated and completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ministry has sponsored two research studies on survey and action plan for conservation and use